Violation of Safety Regulations

13. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that double standards have been followed regarding air safety by the office of the Director General of Civil Aviation;

(b) whether violations of safety regulations does not attract the same or similar action; and

(c) whether in view of such allegations and considering the supreme importance of safety measures in the field of Aviation, strict measures would be taken in respect of violation of safety regulations in all cases?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government attaches surpeme importance to Air Safety. Appropriate action is always taken whenever violation of safety regulations is established.

Indian Airlines flight to Leh and Kargil

14. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVAITIONAND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an airfield at Kargil where military aircrafts can land;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Airlines fly its aircrafts to Leh, if so, what is its frequency;

(c) whether Government would propose to start Indian Airlines Services to Kargil; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. At present Indian Airlines operates the following Boeing-737 services to Leh:

(i) 4 times a week between Delhi-Leh;

(ii) 3 times a week between Srinagar-Leh;

(iii) Twice a week between Jammu-Leh; and

(iv) Twice a week between Chandigarh-Leh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Airfield at Kargil is not suitable for the operation of aircraft which are available with Indian Airlines.

Revamping of Air India

15. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is embarking on a major corporate revamp;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Air Corporation Act 1951 has to be amended to impart greater operational flexibility for the airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken to form a Company under the Companies Act to take over the assets of Air India, with a view to infusing fresh vitality into the organisation. Amendment of Air Corporations Act, 1953 is also envisaged. Simultaneously, organisation structure is being reviewed to ensure effective integration and co-ordination between various departments. Efforts are also being made to ensure commitment of employees to improve the quality of service.

Equity capital of Indian Airlines and Air India

16. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a high level committee to facilitate workers participation in the equity capital of Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A High Powered Committee, under the

Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation has been set up to examine all aspects of restructuring the two air corporation including the question of equity participation by workers.

Assessment of Tourism after Devaluation of Indian Rupee

17. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that devaluation of the Indian rupee has pushed up tourism in the country;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) There has been an upward trend in tourist arrivals coinciding with the devaluation of the rupee in the middle of 1990-91. The tourism turn around was, however, due to a package of measures introduced by Government as well as improvement in the international political climate. The impact due to any particular reason, however, cannot be assessed separately.

Operation of A-320 from Calicut to Sharjah

18. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director General of Civil Aviation has laid down certain guidelines for Indian Airlines for operating A-320 from Calicut to Sharjah, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the flight and duly time limitations prescribed by DGCA for flight crew are at variance with agreements reached by commercial Pilots Association and Pilots guild with IA Management;

(c) whether no such guidelines have been issued in respect of domestic A-320 flights; and

(d) whether Air India has been refused permission for operating A-320 on such a route, if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, These guidelines relate to deployment of pilots with "check-pilot" qualifications, calculation of maximum permissible take-off weight, calculation of landing distance on wet runway etc. These guidelines apply to all Airbus A.320 operations to/ from Calicut irrespective of whether the flight is domestic or international.

(b) The Director General of Civil Aviation has laid down an upper limit for flight duty time, within which, the time limits stipulated in subsisting agreements can still be adhered to.

(c) the guidelines also cover domestic operations of A-320 aircraft.

(d) No, Sir.

Foreign aid for Development of Buddhist Circuit

19. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a loan agreement effective from January 1989 was signed between the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan and Government of India for development of tourist infrastructure on the Buddhist circuit;

(b) if so, what was the schedule of the overall investment envisaged for the project and how much has been utilised;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in work progress; and

(d) how far these fall short of recommendation's of Japanese Task force?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The total cost of the project